

A Powerful Voice for the Latino Community



The Latino Caucus welcomes President of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, during his visit to the Capitol. Featured from left to right: Senator Padilla, Assemblyman Coto, Assemblyman Nava, President Calderon, Assemblyman De Leon, Assemblyman Mendoza, Senator Cedillo, Assemblywoman Saldaña, Assemblywoman Salas, and Assemblywoman Caballero.

As representatives of one of the most powerful economies in the world, the Latino Caucus commands international interest and plays a crucial role in state, national, and international policy issues.



Latino Caucus Speaker Series:
A Forum for Latino Issues

Senator Cedillo introduces Gerald Rivera before a capacity crowd at the Latino Caucus Speaker Series Event where he addressed the important issue of immigration.

The Latino Caucus Speaker Series provides a valuable forum for in-depth discussion on significant public policy facing the Latino Community such as health access, education, immigration, and civil rights.



The Latino Caucus: Fighting for Equality and Social Justice.

Featured from left to right: Senator Romero, Senator Negrete McLeod, and Assemblywoman Saldaña.

The Latino Caucus takes a firm stand on issues that affect under-served communities. Through press conferences, priority legislation, and media advocacy, the Caucus is a powerful voice for change in the Capitol.

We strongly believe
that the Latino Caucus
agenda is, in reality,
the American agenda.



www.legislature.ca.gov/latinocaucus

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CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



Senator
Gil Cedillo, Chair

Assemblyman
Tony Mendoza, Vice Chair

SENATORS

*Ron Calderon • Lou Correa
Denise Moreno Ducheny • Dean Florez
Gloria Negrete McLeod • Jenny Oropeza
Alex Padilla • Gloria Romero*

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS

*Juan Arambula • Anna Caballero
Charles Calderon • Joe Coto
Hector De La Torre • Kevin de Leon
Felipe Fuentes • Ed Hernandez
Pedro Nava • Manuel Perez • Mary Salas
Lori Saldaña • Jose Solorio • Alberto Torrico*

The Rise of the Latino Legislative Caucus

The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s was the event that ignited Latinos in California to political action. By 1962, two Latinos were elected to the California State Assembly, Phil Soto (D-La Puente) and John More (D-Los Angeles). However, not until Latinos gained an additional three seats in 1972 was the original California Latino Legislative Caucus created.

As the Latino Caucus grew in numbers, their political capital in the development of legislation also increased. By the 1980s, the Latino Caucus became one of the strongest voices in debates regarding education, affirmative action, immigration, and healthcare policy.

Today, the Latino Caucus is comprised of 26 members (nine State Senators and 17 Assembly Members) who hold powerful positions in both Houses of the Legislature. Caucus Members currently chair powerful committees such as Budget, Appropriations, Education, and Utilities and Commerce, and hold the Majority Leader position in both Houses.

A Legacy of Social Change

Health Care Access. Instrumental in creating the Healthy Families Program, which expanded health insurance to thousands of children in California (Ch. 623, 1997, Villaraigosa and Figueroa). Appropriated millions of dollars to fund community health clinics in underserved communities (Ch. 99, 2000, Cedillo and Alarcon).

Education. Passed the Chacón-Moscone Bilingual-Bicultural Education Act of 1974, which guaranteed equal educational rights to English Language Learner students. Expanded educational opportunities to undocumented students by allowing them to pay in-state college tuition rates (Ch. 814, 2001, Firebaugh).

Immigration. Secured food stamps for individuals who lost federal eligibility due to immigration status (Ch. 287, 1997, Bustamante). Protected undocumented immigrants from discriminatory local housing ordinances (Ch. 403, 2007, C. Calderon), and established the

Naturalization Services Program to provide citizenship assistance to legal permanent residents (Ch. 515, 2006, De La Torre). Advocated for the rights of undocumented immigrants including the right to report crimes without fear of deportation, the right to drive legally, and the right to obtain a pathway to citizenship.

Civil Rights. Enforced the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to ensure adequate Latino representation in the Capitol, which paved the way for a strong and vibrant Latino Caucus. Led the charge against Propositions 187 and 209 in the mid-1990s, which stripped immigrants of social services and overturned all state affirmative action programs.

For more information on current Latino Caucus priority legislation please visit: www.legislature.ca.gov/latinocaucus